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The Arbitration Treaties Once More.

The arbitration treaties, signed by Secretary Knox and Ambassador Bryce on the 3d of August, but not acted on by the Senate before the adjournment of Congress, have continued to be widely discussed throughout the nation.

So far as can be gathered from the hundreds of newspaper clippings coming to our office, the general sentiment of the people is strongly with the President, and the demand urgent that the treaties be ratified as early and with as little change as possible. The Senate has been the object of much criticism, some of it well reasoned and just, but some of it also, we must confess, indiscriminating and foolishly emotional.

The general verdict of the country, so far as it can be gathered at the present writing, seems to be as above indicated. The people are not a little impatient to have the possibility of war between this country and others made as remote as possible, and they feel that the prompt ratification of these treaties will

do much in this direction. They cannot understand why fine technicalities about constitutional rights and prerogatives should be allowed to stand in the way of a step of progress so momentous as that which the President and the public at large wish to see taken in this matter.

The criticisms of the treaties have been sharp and determined, from certain points of view. The Irish, societies and individuals, have from the start opposed the treaty with Great Britain, and continue to oppose it, on the theory that we should thereby be entering into an "entangling alliance" with the mother country; but how an agreement to arbitrate disputes instead of fighting over them can be called an "entangling alliance" passes comprehension. Such an agreement would put us in no way in the power of Great Britain. It would tie her hands as much as our own in the matter of the settlement of controversies. We are sorry that our Irish friends, who have done so much for the country in other ways, cannot lay aside their historic dislike of England, now that the reasons for it are disappearing, and help us in this great philanthropic undertaking. It would be to their everlasting credit to do so.

The German opposition to the treaty with Great Britain has been much exaggerated. The attempt of a few Germans in Boston and elsewhere to stir up opposition, on the ground that the treaty would ally us with Great Britain against Germany, was so pitifully senseless that it did not deceive many well-informed Germans. The officials of the National American-German Alliance, which has a membership of nearly two millions, are solidly with President Taft, and we are assured that their position is supported by the rank and file of the members and by prominent individual Germans all over the land. The fact that the German government has indicated to Washington its willingness to enter into negotiations for a similar treaty ought not to leave a single sensible German opposed to the ratification of the Anglo-American treaty.

Ex-President Roosevelt has held the treaties up to scorn on the ground that they are not "straightforward," but dishonest and "hopelessly confused as to what justiciable means"; that they promise, in regard to questions of vital interest and national honor, what nobody expects will be performed; that the provision for commissions of inquiry is worse than "silly," as it makes it possible for the commission to be composed wholly of foreigners, etc. This criticism of Mr. Roosevelt, which simply means that we must remain in the savage state—that we must not have too much arbitration, that we must reserve the right to fight and kill in any case where, ourselves being the judges, we think our rights or our interests have been